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This is one of those brilliant ideas that looks great on paper and plays well to the non-boating public. To the state's recreational boaters, however, it is a nightmare.

My wife and I are not "wealthy fat cats" who are running around in our mega-yacht indiscriminately dumping sewage and garbage all over our aquatic ecosystem. On the contrary, we are retired educators who have given up other luxuries in order to afford an older, more modest, pleasure boat with which to enjoy our retirement.

We have equipped our boat with a Lectra-Scan Type I Marine Sanitation Device which treats effluent before discharging it overboard AND the largest holding tank we could retro-fit into our 1978-vintage trawler. Installation of this equipment cost us in excess of \$3000.

Now, the proponents of this regulation will tell you that there are "many conveniently-located pumpout facilities all over the Puget Sound area." All we boaters need to do is stop by one of them, pump out our holding tanks, and go merrily on our way. The reality is somewhat different. Depending on exactly where you are, the nearest "conveniently located pumpout facility" could be 20 miles or more away! At the speed our boat travels, that's about a three-hour run! Convenient? Hardly! And when we arrive at the pumpout dock, it is possible (more correctly, "highly probable") that we'll find it graced by a large "Out of Order" sign. These proponents will also say, "Just install a larger holding tank." This might be possible on a 600-foot container ship, but not on our little trawler without additional thousands of dollars spent on modifications.

And while this onerous regulation destroys the recreational boating industry in Washington, large industrial polluters continue to dump tons of who-knows-what into Puget Sound and municipal entities such as Seattle Metro continue to have "accidental releases" that far exceed the pollution caused by the TREATED sewage coming from boats like ours!

If this regulation becomes law, it will force us to either (a) give up boating and attempt to sell the boat (and who will buy it?) or (b) become criminals by dumping our TREATED sewage. WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS PROPOSED REGULATION.